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—like the effect of an impossible or illegal condition-precedent—and of hard cases—like *Dumpor's case*—highly satisfactory. Indeed, it is the vice of books of this class, from which few, if any of them, are wholly free, that they treat the whole realm of the common law as a single jurisdiction, running English, Massachusetts, New York and other American cases all together, making a complete and often symmetrical mosaic, which does not represent the law of any of the jurisdictions drawn upon. That there is in many cases a fundamental difference and antagonism in the law of sister commonwealths, that there is on most important subjects an “English rule,” a “Massachusetts rule,” a “New York doctrine,” etc., which is at variance with the rule or doctrine elsewhere obtaining, is usually left for the reader to discover for himself. One might read such a work from cover to cover without seriously disturbing an impression that there was an harmonious American or Anglo-American common law, worked out in minutest detail by the conscious co-operation of the courts of fifty or sixty British and American communities. That this method of writing a text-book greatly detracts from its usefulness to the practitioner, who uses it only as a work of reference, as well as to the student, who goes to it for guidance in his arduous progress through the tangled wilderness of precedents, is too plain to require demonstration.

It is to be regretted that the weakness of the original treatise in the learning of the common law—so important in a work on the law of land—has not been remedied in the later editions. This weakness is most apparent in such topics as rents, waste and the like and imparts to their treatment an air of superficiality which detracts from the solid merits of the work as a whole. For an example of this fault, see the curiously inept description and treatment of rent service § 370.

It remains to be said that the work of the experienced editor to whom we owe the last two editions has in general been very well done, the present edition representing a good deal of well directed labor in the revision of the text as well as of the foot-notes. His English style, however, leaves something to be desired, the notes containing many infelicities of expression, in some cases amounting to obscurity. It may be that the expression “no tenure of privity existed” (vol. I, 327, n.) was intended to read “no privity of tenure,” and that in the sentence “But the sounder view is otherwise both with regard to both classes of rents” (I, 328, n.) the first “both” is a copyist’s or compositor’s error, but the awkwardness of the statement that “in order to the burden of the covenant running with the land * * * there must have been a privity of estate,” etc. (I, 326, n.) and of the declaration that “the reservation of a rent in fee * * * created an incorporeal hereditament, producing privity and a right and liability on the covenants annexed” (I, 328, n.) must, it is feared, be laid at the door of the learned editor himself. But these, though numerous enough, are, after all, only slight imperfections in what is, upon the whole, an excellent and useful book.

A TEXT BOOK OF LEGAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY. Vol. II.
 Edited by Frederick Peterson, M. D., and Walter S. Haines, M. D.
 Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders & Co. 1904.

The second volume of this work which has just appeared fulfills the expectations raised by the high standard already set by the first. In this second volume several important aspects of legal medicine are first considered, of which the general subject is sexual criminality in its various forms and then follows a digest of all laws relating to the same in the various States, which is very convenient and valuable for reference. Part II. of the whole work constitutes the main body of this volume and deals with Toxicology. This, from the nature of the case, lies largely in the province of chemistry and as the majority of the questions involved have been for some time upon a definite and accurate scientific basis, there is very little that is actually new to be found or to be expected. As one new feature, however, should be mentioned: the description of the biological test for blood, based upon the very recent discoveries in "immunization" or "adaptation" in animals. This subject has attracted so much attention and is of so much intrinsic importance and interest, that one cannot but wish that it had been a little more fully discussed than we find it here. Medico-legal chemistry is a science in itself and it is here admirably treated. The information given is complete and accurate and the arrangement is excellent. The value as well as the limitations of these chemical tests as evidence is also concisely and pertinently expressed. Considering the work as a whole, it gives the last word of science upon the problems of legal medicine and already deservedly stands as a recognized authority. These problems are often so very perplexing, that such a complete and trustworthy textbook and guide, as is here given us, is of the very greatest value.

REVIEWS TO FOLLOW:

A TREATISE ON DAMAGES. Joseph A. Joyce and Howard C. Joyce. Three vols. New York: The Banks Law Publishing Co. 1903.

THE LAW OF CONTRACTS. Three vols. Theophilus Parsons. Ninth edition, edited by John M. Gould. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1904. pp. vol. I. ccvii, 646; vol. II. xx, 974; vol. III. ix, 749.

A HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF WILLS. George E. Gardner. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1903. pp. xv, 726.

STREET RAILWAY REPORTS. Vol. I. Edited by Frank B. Gilbert. Albany: Matthew Bender & Co. 1904. pp. xvi, 943.

TEXT-BOOK OF THE PATENT LAWS. Fourth edition. Albert H. Walker. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1904. pp. cviii, 775.

INTESTATE SUCCESSION IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK. Daniel S. Remsen. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1904. pp. 154.

A TREATISE ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS OF THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY. Alfred G. Reeves. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1904. pp. lxxv, 913.

ENGLISH AND INDIAN LAW OF TORTS. Ratanlal Raichoddas and Dhirajlal Keshavlal. Bombay: The Bombay Law Reporter Office. 1903. pp. civ, 581.

THE POLICE POWER. Ernst Freund. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1904. pp. xcii, 819.

BRIEF UPON THE PLEADINGS IN CIVIL ACTIONS. Vol. I. Demurrer. Vol. II. Issues of fact. Austin Abbott. Rochester: Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Co. 1904. pp. xxxiii, 1-867; xvii, 868-2120.